

Quid Novi

Vol. XI, No.21

MCGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITE MCGILL FACULTE DE DROITMarch 11, 1991
le 11 mars 1991

Demme Monde:

A Review of The Silence of the Lambs

by Julie Godin, Nat. IV

A few months ago, I read Thomas Harris' mystery novel The Silence of the Lambs, and found it to be suspenseful, frightening, but superficial in its approach.

Jonathan Demme's film, which adds depth to the psychological analysis while skipping over some of the factual explanations, did not disappoint me. His interpretation of Harris' work does not result in a slasher blood-fest, or even a horror movie, but rather a look at the deep-seated loneliness and fears which haunt us. Demme's choice of this novel seemed surprising at first, although he

has shown his taste for portraying action and violence in previous films (notably the end of Something Wild, where Melanie Griffith's sociopath husband comes rampaging after her).

In The Silence of the Lambs, the violence is mostly repressed, and only flares up at certain turning points in the film. Terrifying acts are described, rather than shown, and a sense of deep tension underlies every scene. When killing does take place, as in the final confrontation between good and evil, Demme's approach is effective: he uses shifting camera angles, striking changes in lighting and amplified sounds contrasted with

engulfing silence.

Emotionally, his focus is on two characters: FBI trainee Clarice Starling and imprisoned psycho-killer Hannibal (The Cannibal) Lecter. The plot line, in which Starling attempts to solve a series of murders and prevent a politician's daughter from being the next victim, is secondary. By choosing Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins for the pivotal roles, Demme has given the relationship between these two characters more depth than Harris' work had conveyed. In the novel, Hannibal Lecter, a psychiatrist and a murderer, is a malevolent,

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Native Law Conference Community, Crisis & Difference

by Martin Jensen, LLB II

A political crisis is a time of instability and risk. It lays bare the insides of the community where it occurs: the frustrations, the contentions, the passions that erupt when the settled structures of our lives are shaken. It also discloses the resourcefulness of the community in dealing with its own constituents: we may show ourselves more or less honest, more or less courageous in facing awkward facts (and an angry man or woman is one such awkward fact). Community

means communication: audi alteram partem, as the graven words affirm: hear the other side.

The Mohawk crisis of the past summer was the obvious frame in which to set this year's Native Law Conference. Entitled Lessons from Oka, it drew a diverse bunch of participants and auditors. Joe Norton and other Kahnawake folk were in the house. Joey Deom reserved seats for himself and a dozen Warriors. Sureté du Québec and Hydro Québec agents

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/ ANNONCES

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS: Professors Brierly and Macdonald would like to engage two (2) research assistants this summer for a four month period (approximately May 1 - Sept. 1) in order to assist in the editing of a monograph provisionally entitled "Quebec Civil Law". The duties of the research assistant will be to act as editorial assistants, to help locate bibliographic materials relating to various chapters of the Civil Code of Lower Canada, and to assist the authors in the integration of several submissions by other authors on a variety of topics covered by the Code. We are looking for upper-year students who have a good knowledge of the Civil Law and an interest in the history and development of Quebec private law.

The successful candidates must be able to read French materials and to write English well. They should also be able to use Word-Perfect 5.0 or 5.1 on an IBM-compatible personal computer. The salary offered will be competitive with Faculty norms for research assistants. Students interested in this position may apply by leaving a curriculum vitae and covering note with Professor Brierly before March 15, 1991. We expect to have made a decision before the beginning of April.

CRIMINAL LAW I TUTORIAL PROGRAMME - A tutorial programme will be offered in all sections of Criminal Law I in the next academic year (1991-1992). Nous sommes à la recherche d'étudiant(e)s désireux(es) d'agir en tant qu'auxiliaires. Les étudiant(e)s de troisièmes et quatrième année ayant un intérêt marqué pour le sujet devraient déposer des demandes auprès du S.A.O. d'ici le 1er avril 1991. Tutors will enroll in a course (496-048B Group Assistants) and two academic credits will be awarded for satisfactory performance. We are making this announcement now to assist students who are planning their next academic year.

FORUM NATIONAL - Forum National presents Reed Scowen, former MNA for NDG and Quebec Delegate-General in London, who will speak on Wednesday, March 13 1991 at 12:00 pm. The topic of Mr. Scowen's speech will be the title of his recent book on the future of the anglophone community in Quebec, namely "A Different Vision". Tous sont les bienvenus.

RECYCLING - Vous avez vu les boîtes de recyclage qui se trouvent maintenant dans la faculté? You can fill them with white and coloured paper, stationary, computer paper, photocopies and newsprint. Veuillez noter que plus vous y mettez du papier blanc de bonne qualité, plus le recyclage sera rentable.

LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC - There will

be a Legal Clinic Course Meeting on Thursday March 14, 1991 at 4:00 pm in room 203.

AD HOC WORKING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION EQUITY - An Ad Hoc Working Committee on Educational Equity has begun to study issues relating to equality and legal education. The committee would like to hear the ideas and concerns of students and student groups in the law school. Those interested are encouraged to address submissions in writing to Professor Bill Foster or Professor Colleen Sheppard. For further information about the Committee's work, a general information meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 1991 at 5:00 pm in room 202. All welcome!

ST. THOMAS MORE - Law Students and Professors interested in spiritual values: everyone is welcome to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 12, at 12h00 in room 202. This week's reading is «The idea of Utopia from Hesiod to John Paul II». It is available from Jon Quaglia, BCL III.

WOMEN & THE LAW - Women & the Law present the second of the Women and Spirituality film series: «The Burning Times», on Thursday, March 14th at 4h00 p.m. in the Student Lounge (next to Sadie's).

WIN, LOSE OR DRAW - Come see Montréal celebrities play the popular T.V. game show. All proceeds to go to charity in conjunction with this year's Skit Nite's efforts. Wednesday, March 13th in the Moot Court at 12:30 p.m.. A Delta Theta Phi event.

SOYEZ MAITRES DE VOTRE AVENIR - Une conférence organisée par le Barreau Canadien en coopération avec la C.A.D.E.D. se tiendra à l'U.Q.A.M. samedi, le 16 mars prochain de 8h30 à 16h30. Les sujets abordés porteront entre autres sur «l'art de la plaidoirie», «la science de la négociation», «préparation d'un curriculum vitae» et «l'entrevue». Les frais d'inscription sont de \$25,00 pour les non-membres du Barreau Canadien et de \$10,00 pour les membres. Bienvenue à tous.

MCGILL INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY - Prof. John Halstead, former Canadian ambassador to NATO and to FRG will give a conference on March 13th at 12:00 on the topic of «The Re-Unification of Germany: The key to East-West Relations». Room T.B.A.

LEGAL THEORY WORKSHOPS - Prof. Jean-Guy Belley (Laval) will give a talk on the topic of «Sociologie et théorie du contrat: réflexions à partir d'une étude empirique» on March 15th at

12:00 in room 202.

JOHN HUMPHREY LECTURESHIP IN HUMAN RIGHTS - The third in this series of annual lectures will be given by Judge Ronald St.J. MacDonald on March 14th at 5:00 p.m. in the Moot Court. The first John Humphrey lecture was given by Prof. Humphrey himself in November 1988, on the eve then of the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The second was given last year by His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the eve of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations itself. This year, Prof. MacDonald is the speaker. He is presently Professor of Law at U. of T. and has been Dean of Law at U. of T. and Dalhousie. He has also received a Doctorate in Law honoris causa from McGill. An eminent judge, he is a member of the European Court of Human Rights, the only Canadian ever accorded this honour. M. Macdonald est un expert bien connu en droit international, qui a dirigé ou fait partie d'un certain nombre de délégations et comités gouvernementaux et intergouvernementaux. C'est un spécialiste du droit constitutionnel et comparé qui a publié de nombreux ouvrages dans le domaine des droits de la personne, et qui a notamment collaboré à la rédaction de l'ouvrage important intitulé «The International Law of Human Welfare». One of his more recent publications is his celebrated article which appeared in the 1989 Canadian Yearbook of International Law on «Maxwell Cohen at Eighty: International Lawyer, Educator, Judge». Prof. MacDonald will lecture on the topic of «The UN Decade for International Law: Our Response to the Challenge/La décennie du droit international à l'O.N.U.: le rôle des juristes». This year's lecture addresses issues which should be of interest to professors and students alike. More specifically, Professor Macdonald proposes to discuss how student organizations, such as a student International Law Society, can involve itself in the international legal process. This lecture should then be of interest to all those who have a desire to "get involved" — effectively — in processes which sometimes seem remote and inaccessible. Bienvenue à tous!

QUID NOVI - Anyone interested in working for the Quid Novi next year: Drop off your name and phone number in the Quid box in the LSA office before 1:00 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) [no names will be accepted after this time]. Les gens qui nous auront laissé leurs noms seront convoqués à une réunion mercredi midi. All budding journalists are welcome, don't be shy! La charge de travail consiste essentiellement à assister à une réunion

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hebdomadaire, à faire de la correction d'épreuves, à solliciter des articles et à en écrire de façon régulière. The positions on the Quid Board for next year will be as follow: Editor-in-Chief, Director of Information (responsible for covering conferences and events happening in the Faculty generally), Director of Production (responsible for supervising weekly production and layout of the Quid), Administrative Director (responsible for all financial and administrative matters) and Editors (responsible for soliciting, correcting and writing articles on a regular basis, and for attending a weekly meeting).

CRIMINAL LAW CONFERENCE - Prof. Don Stuart (Queen's) will speak on Wednesday, March 13th in the Moot Court from 9:00 to 11:00. The discussion will examine the relationship of theory to the practice of criminal law, particularly in the context of swift changes in the criminal law due to decisions of the Supreme Court.

FORUM NATIONAL - Elections for the 1991-92 Executive will take place on Wednesday, March 20th at noon in room 101. The list of eligible voters appears on both the LSA and FN noticeboards. This annual general meeting is open to all. Apart from the elections, a review of the year's events and suggestions and plans from next year's program will be discussed.

ANNIE MCDONALD LANGSTAFF LECTURE - The «Nanny» Solution: A critical look at the predicament of foreign domestic workers in Canada, March 13th at noon, in room 202. Leslie Hardy of LEAF will discuss the Charter challenge to an Immigration Canada program under which foreign housekeepers and nannies must live in with their employers for two years before applying for landed immigrant status. Sedef Arat-Koc of York University will deal with the predicament of foreign domestic workers within the context of the broader issues raised by housework and child care conceptualized as domestic labour. Une autre conférence aura lieu, en français, le 20 mars prochain.

COMPUTER UPDATE - Netnotes: As you may already know, the computer network is functioning again! Thanks to the efforts of Dan Shap, the Network Supervisor, our cranky old system is doing its job. Not only can you access the IBM Laser Printer from every PC terminal, but through our new WordPerfect version 5.1 you can print FONTS!!! That's right - Times Roman (called Dutch Roman on our system), Italics, and different sizes are now available through the Base Font command (Alt-F8, 4). For more info on WP 5.1, see the door of room 204. Macnotes: although we are down to only three Macs in rm. 204, they have new mice. Mice that work. For now. PLEASE BE GENTLE WITH THE MICE! We are working towards improving our Mac service. Stay tuned. General notes: We remind you again to

Native Law Conference

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were rumoured to be present, surreptitiously taping what was said (and saving themselves the fifteen bucks a transcript costs).

The range of information presented was impressive: it spoke not only to the legal issues, but to the cultural and social differences of Indian peoples, to their sense of historic injustice and their present demands for redress, to personal aspirations, fears, and bitterness.

The Law

The legal discussion addressed the various conceptual grounds currently being advanced in support of aboriginal rights to land and political autonomy:

- that these rights are legally secured by 18th century British imperial law, which recognized full aboriginal sovereignty, and is now made binding by our Constitution (Dr. Bruce Clark);
- that our Constitution is «gravely defective», because it is unresponsive to First Nations claims (as it is equally unresponsive to Québec's claims) and must be redrawn to incorporate the doctrines of international human rights and the spirit of such decisions as Sparrow and Sioui (Dr. Brian Slattery);
- that European legal thought is tied reso-

please be nice and gentle with the equipment. It is very old and very delicate. we must also remind all users that NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE COMPUTER ROOM. We have had many problems with messy plates, cups and damaged keyboards. Please eat elsewhere, and keep the room clean. Paper notes: Both formfeed and laser paper are on sale at Sadie's. DO NOT STEAL PAPER FROM THE LIBRARY. The Library will be pressing charges against anyone caught with their hand in the photocopier paper bin. The paper is at Sadie's. It is very cheap. Buy it. That's all for now. Remember, the Computer Committee welcomes all new members and their suggestions. If you are interested in helping out, or if you have a constructive comment, please leave a note for me in the LSA Computer Committee box, in the LSA office.

lutely to notions of private rights in property whereas aboriginal thought espouses notions of stewardship over the earth (Lawrence Courtoralle, Vice-Chief of the Assembly of First Nations);

- that no matter how well-informed the policy underlying legislation, the white man's law will always screw the Indian (this brought cheers from some members of the audience), an opinion shared by Courtoralle and supported by examples of abusive U.S. administration of Indian affairs (Robert Venables, Prof. at Cornell University);

- that the James Bay and Cree-Naskapi Agreements disguised the «biggest land-grab» in Canadian history, Québec only negotiating with the Cree in order to forestall a Supreme Court decision prejudicial to its plans, and that since the Agreements were sealed, the Cree have had to go to court time after time to force performance of their terms (Matthew Coon-Come, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of Québec Crees, and inland coordinator for the Cree-Naskapi Act negotiations);

- that the Courts are an important agent of reform, moving public opinion and government away from the colonial model - vide recent Supreme Court decisions (Peter Hutchins, of Hutchins, Soroka and Dionne, Montréal);

- that the native right of self-government is inherent (Bob Rae was said to have recognized concurrent jurisdiction in Indian government), and will be entrenched in the Constitution (Mark Stevenson, Legal Counsel to the Native Affairs Secretariat of Ontario);

- that the «rule of law» is the white man's convenience, and embodies a severe disjunction between legal theory (no basis for Indian title) and ethical reality (land was stolen from the Indians), and that James Bay II is Canada's Amazon Basin and will not be built (more cheers from

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Quid Novi is published weekly by students at the Faculty of Law of McGill University, 3644 Peel Street, Montreal, H3A 1W9. Production is made possible by support of the Dean's office and by direct funding from the students. Opinions expressed are those of the author only. Contributions are published at the discretion of the editor and must indicate author or origin.

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Quid Novi est une publication hebdomadaire assurée par les étudiants de la faculté de droit de l'université McGill, 3644 rue Peel, Montréal, H3A 1W9. La publication est rendue possible grâce à l'appui du bureau du doyen, ainsi que par le financement individuel des étudiants. Les opinions exprimées sont propres à l'auteur. Toute contribution n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction et doit indiquer l'auteur où son origine.

Les Elections

LSA

GRAHAM GARNER (BCL I) - VP FINANCE

Je serais très heureux d'avoir l'occasion de représenter le corps étudiant au poste de vice-président aux affaires financières pour l'année académique 1991-92.

Par mon éducation et mon expérience d'emploi, je me considère entièrement qualifié pour ce poste. J'ai complété mon baccalauréat en Administration à l'Université Queen's avec une concentration en comptabilité et finance. Parmi mes emplois d'été, j'ai occupé le poste de vérificateur-adjoint chez Price Waterhouse où j'ai travaillé à la préparation et l'analyse de rapports financiers.

I believe that the LSA should continue to run on a break-even basis with a preponderance of the budget allocated to student activities which directly benefit the student body.

As your representative on the LSA executive, I would make a conscientious effort to represent your views with imagination and objectivity. I would very much appreciate your support on election day.

GREG DAVID (BCL II) - PRESIDENT

I would like to represent the student body as President of the LSA next year. I would appreciate your support on election day.

The LSA must exist to serve the needs of the student body and to provide students with a vehicle through which they can turn their ideas into actions. We are fortunate to have an interested and active

student body. I would like to see the LSA play a greater role in helping students further their initiatives.

I enjoyed representing you on the executive as VP Finance this year. In order to make life easier for our many student organizations, I set up the «clubs room» and increased club funding by 64% over last year. I was also responsible for last summer's much needed renovation of the TV room. Further, I established the social committee's «break-even» policy.

Je tiens à poursuivre à fond la question du bilinguisme au sein de la Faculté en consultant les différentes opinions véhiculées par les étudiants, afin de satisfaire l'ensemble des besoins exprimés par les étudiants. Je m'assurerai ainsi que les vœux de toute la population étudiante soient réalisés. Mon expérience en tant que vice-président aux affaires financières me servira de façon primordiale dans la réorganisation de l'AED rendue nécessaire par les nouvelles politiques fiscales. J'aimerais également mettre sur pied un service de photocopies afin de réduire les longues files d'attente à la bibliothèque et de créer ainsi une source d'emploi supplémentaire pour les étudiants.

Enfin, en tant que président de l'AED, j'entends me joindre au «Greening the Faculty Committee» dans le but éventuel de voir instaurées des politiques environnementales efficaces à l'échelle de toute la Faculté. Je crois par exemple que l'achat par la cafétéria d'un lave-vaisselle pourrait réduire le gaspillage qui résulte de l'usage de produits non-réutilisables.

I thus hope to be able to count on your support on election day. In the meantime,

de l'AED

Elections

please do not hesitate to phone me at home if you have any questions (342-1800).

ALAIN STRATI (BCL I) - ATHLETIC COORDINATOR

Believe the hype. I returned from Law Games with no voice, a cold, a smelly t-shirt and great memories. Now, I want to organize our participation in next year's extravaganza at Dalhousie by representing the students of this faculty as their athletic co-ordinator. I believe that the Law Games are an excellent opportunity for students to get to know each other. Having helped to organize the Blue Dog Bash a few weeks ago, I feel it is important to provide the students with a more informal atmosphere in order to develop a certain comradery; one that will extend past the years spent here. My interest also stems from my participation in sports both in intramurals and at Law Games.

Promises... Aside from winning every McGill intramural title, I would like to see more McGill Law paraphernalia available to students. At Law Games, I noticed that many schools seemed to have more than their token t-shirt, such as sweatshirts, caps, etc... I would also rearrange the gameroom (Cyperball!).

Vote for Alain Strati: he's the guy who could get you exclusive movie passes to Vanilla Ice's motion picture debut.

JORDON WAXMAN (LLB III) - PRESIDENT

Jordo is running for LSA/AED president. Here are a few words about myself and the position.

Some of the issues facing McGill law

students are the need for flexible language and outside-credit policies, the timely publication and review of course evaluations, an environmental audit of CDH and the implementation of current student initiatives such as the Admissions Committee proposal. To best meet these challenges, I believe the LSA/AED president must have broad-based political experience.

To this end my 7 years of experience at McGill - as an outspoken member of university Senate, SSMU Council, 2 years of LSA Council as Sports Coordinator '89-90 and on numerous committees and publications have helped prepare me for these large tasks.

Secondly, there is a need for adequate funding of clubs, services and conferences. Le président de l'AEC se doit d'être juste et fiable à cet égard. Ayant co-présidé le Canadian Jewish Law Students Association, je comprends le besoin de promouvoir et financer tous les comités.

The president must have McGill-specific experience in administrative and academic policies to deal with underfunding. Mes expériences au Sénat en tant que représentant des étudiants m'ont permis d'acquérir une connaissance indispensable des politiques universitaires.

Je suis donc en mesure de contribuer largement à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie dans notre faculté. Mais ce ne sont là que trois grandes tâches qui m'attendent dans mon rôle de président. There is a great deal more to do.

Through active participation in athletic (varsity swim captain '85-87, intramu-

als), extracurricular (The Cool Monsoons) and academic (Gale Cup Moot '91) pursuits, and by the credentials I have outlined, I believe I have shown myself to be an approachable, spirited and competent leader.

Votez Jordo. Ça fera du bien!

ANDRÉ BEAULIEU (BCL III) - LAW SENATOR

C'est peut-être parce qu'on nous a inculqué la peur de l'activisme judiciaire, mais les étudiants de droit ne s'impliquent pas toujours assez dans les affaires de l'université. Pourtant, ce qui se passe «en bas» nous affecte tous.

The underfunding problem at McGill is reaching crisis proportions and the poor excuse we have as a government doesn't seem to care. Budget cuts across the board will threaten the quality of education in our school.

The university senate is the rule-making body for academic matters and, along with the Board of governors, for financial matters. The pie is definitely getting smaller but with our presence at Senate, we can make sure it is not at the expense of the Faculty of law.

At Senate, the Faculty is represented by the Dean and the Student Law Senator. Next year we must make sure that the special needs of the law school are addressed by Senate and that the improvement of our library remains on the high priority list. I need not go on about our needs in terms of adequate faculty hiring and physical maintenance (even Toby doesn't want to sit in the Pit anymore!).

J'ose croire qu'après deux ans de «service» auprès de l'AED/LSA je peux encore me rendre utile au Sénat (celui de l'université, pas la garderie d'Ottawa). J'ai représenté McGill auprès des autres facultés de droit, et les étudiants de droit du Québec auprès de l'Association du Barreau canadien. J'espère que vous me confierez maintenant la tâche de vous représenter auprès de l'université.

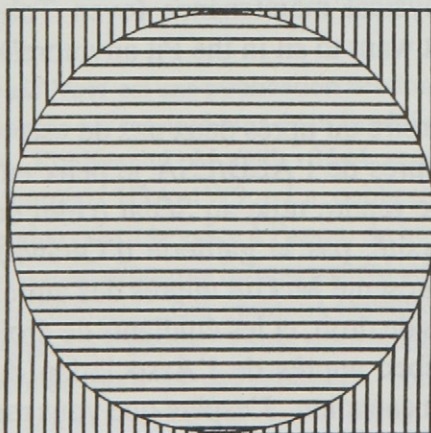
Silence of the Lambs

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strangely omniscient but ice-cold monster. In the film, Anthony Hopkins manages to give Lecter a hypnotic charm. His appearance in itself is at once frightening and compelling, as we get sustained close-up shots of his unblinking eyes. Jodie Foster, who has a tendency to give her characters a certain toughness, plays Starling's contained vulnerability to perfection. As Starling tries to assert herself in a difficult, male-oriented world, she must also journey to the heart of her own fears and insecurities. She attempts to get help from Lecter, but she must also bare her own secrets to him, and he clearly feeds on human suffering as well as human flesh.

Lecter's strange mixture of sophistication and baseness creates a perfectly civilized monster. He preys on other humans, and yet we also see him being paraded as a trophy by competing factions of law enforcement.

Ultimately, the film is a portrait of America as a cold, bleak and desolate land. There is no true resolution to Starling's quest: although she achieves her goal, the victory is barren. As the film comes to an end, evil continues to stalk, and she will go on to pursue her career in an office filled with picture of murder victims. Similarly, even when we have ceased to experience fear as a result of the images presented, the film leaves us with a sense of sadness which is more difficult to shake off.



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the house) (Romeo Saganash, Vice-chair of the Cree Regional Authority, and board member of several Cree corporations).

A glance at the credentials and positions of these people persuades this writer that when political and legal battle is joined on these issues, it will be forceful, articulate and well-considered - and will involve every one of us, as citizens and taxpayers, if not as jurists. Perhaps as heirs of the moral burden of Canadian history?

The People

The legal argumentation is available from books. But what the books will not so easily convey is the character of the people involved, as individuals, and in their collectivity.

There were formal attestations of the cultural differences between white society and aboriginal. Thus, said Mike Bush, when Mohawk councils take decisions that will affect the entire community, tradition binds them to consider the consequences down to the seventh generation hence (!). What the hell does that mean, the literal-minded will ask. To this writer, it suggests an extreme circumspection and conservatism. This weighs oddly against what may appear to be the radicalism of Mohawk politics, evidenced by events at Oka and Chateauguay. But, said Myrtle Bush (Kahnawake Chief 1982-88), Oka represented an overflowing of long-accumulated frustration. It is important, she said, that white Canada understand the aboriginal experience of 500 years. Or, as Courtoralle had remarked: «All you know of our culture are the names you appropriate to your weapons and your cars (Tomahawk, Apache, Pontiac). Why don't you name them after Irishmen or Greeks?».

Most eloquent was the personal testimony of Patricia Monture. A law profes-

sor at Dalhousie, Monture insisted that the audience regard her as «a Mohawk woman, and mother of two children». She spoke of her life as an Indian woman studying law in a Canadian law school, as a child victim of sexual abuse, as an adult victim of marital violence. She spoke of the pain the summer's events caused her, when she wished strongly to come to Kahnawake, but, pregnant and near term, could not bring herself to take her children into «that armed camp». She spoke with fear of the schisms in Mohawk society, of the rage that had shaken the Conference earlier in the day when an Onandaga Warrior, one of the number that had occupied the Treatment Centre at Oka during the siege, had angrily demanded of Oren Lyons of the Six Nations Confederacy whether Lyons considered him a «criminal» for his actions at Oka (this Warrior is facing criminal charges and was, at the date of the Conference, without legal representation). «I do not blame you», Monture said, «but I do not want my children growing up to admire what you stand for. Our youth are losing all respect for authority. It was not like this before...»

Advocacy

It is unfortunate that the Conference coincided with a week of pressing academic assignments - the Moot Court was conspicuous for the absence of McGill law students and professors. Even those among us who are indifferent to aboriginal issues would have gained from hearing the technical virtuosity of the advocacy that was offered. The dignity and firm feeling of the discourse was leavened with lively good humour (the bitterest speakers were actually two whites, Clark and Venables). One did not come away with a feeling of enmity, merely of difference, and resolute claim. As noted above, fierce intellectual battles will soon be fought on these issues. The Conference gave a foretaste of their form, importance, and power.



Why be a country?

by Gregory Hood, BCL I

Recently, and with more than usual vigour, Canadians have been seeking a solution to the problem of how best to divide up power between the central and provincial governments. To some it may even seem that the time has come to face the question of why we should be a country.

This question is not impertinent; it should be continually asked by responsible citizens, if only as a stimulant to thought. But perhaps a more useful question to ask at this stage in the evolution of our country is why should we have a strong central government.

There is a belief, dating back at least to the Trudeau administration, that a strong and powerful central government is needed to keep the country whole and united. But more and more it is becoming evident that this belief is misguided. Canadians would be better served by a federal system of stronger, more equal regions.

It is no doubt the sentiment of a great number of Canadians that the greater resources of a strong central government enable its departments to perform better than would those of smaller regional governments. This is perhaps true in some cases. But as is demonstrated everyday in the business world, simply because an organization is larger and has greater resources does not mean that it is more efficient, or more responsive. Often the more effective solution is to have several smaller, autonomous organizations choosing to cooperate together in large ventures. This way smaller organizations can take advantage of the greater economy of combined resources, and avoid wasteful duplication of effort, when it is in their best interest. This kind of cooperation, efficiency and responsiveness are what we should be striving

for in government.

The business world provides a further example for the citizen to study. Both centralization and decentralization are periodic occurrences in business and private industry. Corporations, trying always to become more profitable and more productive, often shift their structures of management and production. Usually these internal shifts do not herald the decline of the company, but rather its will to be more competitive. Those who argue that a rearrangement of Canada, toward a federation of larger, stronger regions, would weaken Canada on the international stage are overly pessimistic. The international measure of success would be the economic and policy performance of the new arrangement.

Perhaps the most important of the arguments presented in favour of the strong central government is that of the creation and preservation of uniform national standards. These standards, of health care, of education, of income, and of taxation, can, it is thought, only be preserved in a state with a strong central government.

But to a large extent the insistence on national standards is in direct conflict with the diversity of the Canadian nation. It is not simply a big hearted but superficial statement that this country is composed of diversity - it is a very powerful fact. The country is diverse to the point of fracturing. Without doubt that diversity is most obvious in French Québec, but equally significant is the economic and political diversity of the other regions.

The fact that Western Canadians speak and act like Ontarians or Maritimers, does not remove the fact that their economies, their incomes, their social security requirements are different. Language and cultural differences are, without doubt, of great significance. But of no

less importance is economic diversity. In both cases more representative, responsive regional governments would be an improvement over a central government that demands rigid adherence to standards that may not be appropriate.

A solution to the continual power struggle that is robbing Canadians of their vital reserves of good will and optimism could be comprised of two steps. First, redraft the provincial boundaries. Second, redraft the boundaries of constitutional, legislative and executive power, transferring power to the new provinces.

A rearrangement of this sort would involve grouping the provinces into larger, and more economically equitable units. The transfer of political power would involve essentially two elements; each would have many implications. The first is the power over the Raising of Money. The second is that of the so-called Residual Legislative Power now held by Parliament. A central government could retain some constitutional powers, notably over criminal law and justice, banking, currency, and defense and foreign policy. Regional economic policy could be controlled on the basis of fiscal policy and taxation.

Many will suggest that this formula is an avenue towards disintegration of the country. But we should not fear new solutions. Canada's current constitution was founded on the model of the British unitary state and its now fragmented Empire. Neither of these organizations is an appropriate model for the Canada of the twenty-first century.

A new federation, with a constitution enshrining fundamental, democratic, legal and mobility rights, in a country made up of more equal regions with more autonomy would more likely generate strong feelings of mutual respect between the component states. It may well be the formula for a renewed Canada, for a country strong in its diversity. It is time to leave behind the hard feelings of our past and look to the future.

Zino Twice

One down, six to go

by Zino Macaluso, Nat. IV

Well, it has finally happened. The efforts of the now famous K.E.C.O.T.'s have not been in vain. What's that? You've never heard of us before? Allow me to explain. K.E.C.O.T. is an organization of concerned citizens who have banded together to rid the airwaves of an annoying, grating menace. K.E.C.O.T. is an acronym for «Kill Every Character On Thirtysomething». We have 23 million supporters in North America alone, each of whom is sick of watching characters wallow in their own self-pity. All of this is reminiscent of an old Saturday Night Live skit. Remember Doug and Wendy Whiner? They were the Michael and Hope of yesteryear.

It was only through a massive letter-writing campaign undertaken by each and every one of our members (some of us writing 3-4 times daily) that we were able to kill off Gary's character in a car accident. This small victory gives us strength to go on with our divine mission. We liken our crusade to euthanasia - to put these sniveling, discontented people out of their miseries. Even the Iraqi people, our recent enemies in the Gulf war, have referred to Thirtysomething as «the mother of all shows». Apparently, to deflate morale, episode after episode was broadcast onto huge outdoor television screens near Kuwait City. This caused 30 000 soldiers to surrender.

The members of K.E.C.O.T. hereby submit the aims of our organization - that is to say, how each remaining character should bite it. We proceed in order of annoyance.

1) Hope - Ah, Hope. The name itself is an oxymoron for this woman. Bored and cranky about her life as a «domestic engineer», Hope will leave Michael and join NASA. We already know she'll never be happy any place on Earth, but perhaps in a galaxy far, far away?

2) Michael - Poor angst-ridden Mikey. How

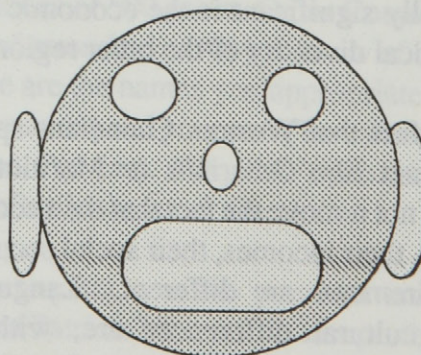
can we end your eternal suffering (and our own)? How'bout this: Fearing his son will find him to be a lapsed Jew, Michael finally decides to undergo that much-delayed circumcision. An old rabbi, a shaky hand, and...

3) Nancy and Elliot - They've been through a lot - and insisted on dragging us through it as well. In a bizarre plot twist, Ethan, their son, obsessed with the profits from his children's book (and possible deal with Spielberg to direct the animated film version), bludgeons his parents to death one night in their sleep. (Warning: We let him live, but watch out for offspring! We wouldn't want some kind of Ethansomething in ten years time).

4) Ellen - In a touching episode, she chokes to death on a throat lozenge prescribed by her kindly old doctor (played by Anthony Hopkins in a cameo role) to get rid of her persky sore throat which has plagued her for the last 4 seasons.

5) Finally, Melissa - She took it hard when Gary died - let's help her out. More distraught than usual (since she has no one left to complain to), Melissa will mercifully take her own life with a rifle. Of course, she'll photograph the whole event beautifully - finally getting that Vanity Fair spread she so richly deserves.

And that's it. Susannah is in New York so we won't have to deal with her. Of course, if she comes back to complain at Ellen's wedding, we could arrange an unfortunate crane accident. But, I disgress. I've always been an optimistic dreamer. Membership forms for K.E.C.O.T. can be picked up at SAO between 9 and 5:30 weekdays. See you at the meetings!



Shirley MacLaine is not nuts

by Zino Macaluso, Nat. IV

I was watching a rerun of an old «Alice» episode the other day (look, cut me some slack. It was the only thing on in the T.V. room). Suddenly, one of the characters, Flo, commented in her southern drawl, «I'm sorry suga, mah mind is somewhere else. I'm slower 'n molasses this mornin'. Maybe it's got somethin' to do with Mel's cookin'» (canned laughter). Cooking aside, I find myself relating to Flo (which is a scary concept in itself).

In my fourth year, getting up in the morning has become an ordeal - in third year, it was only a chore. At first, it's not so bad and then it hits you - oh my God!! I'm still in law school! I caught myself sighing the other day because I couldn't slip my sneaker on without undoing the laces. Shouldn't things be getting better and not worse? I mean, shouldn't we be in the groove of things by now? Yet, my malaise is more pronounced now. I don't even feel comfortable in the building any more. Everyone I know has either graduated or died.

Now, I find myself having out-of-body experiences in many of my classes. It's like a bad dream - my mind floats above my body trying in vain to break out of the Moot Court while my body acts as an automaton taking down notes, being unable to decipher what they mean. I'm living Hymie's life from Get Smart.

Luckily, I'm not the only one suffering from this affliction. Many fourth year students «just can't seem to get motivated» or «really couldn't care less by this point» Why? Is it some special oxygen they're pumping into Common Law Evidence classes? Is it a particular drug they're putting into the fourth year coffee?

Anyway, we all hope we can overcome our discomforting feelings before we go running through the halls screaming «kiss mah grits»!